

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 219—TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO ESTABLISH A MARKET-BASED VALUATION OF THE YUAN AND TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 219

Whereas the currency of the People's Republic of China, the yuan or renminbi, has been tightly pegged to the United States dollar at the same fixed level since 1994;

Whereas the undervaluation of China's currency makes exports from China less expensive for foreigners and makes foreign products more expensive for Chinese consumers, an effective subsidization of China's exports and a virtual tariff on foreign imports;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has significantly intervened in its foreign exchange markets in order to hold the value of the yuan within its tight and artificial trading band, resulting in enormous growth in China's dollar reserves, estimated to be over \$345,000,000,000 as of June 2003;

Whereas the practice of "currency manipulation" to gain a trade or competitive advantage is a violation of the spirit and letter of the World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund agreements, of which the People's Republic of China is now party;

Whereas the undervaluation of China's currency has had and continues to have a negative impact on the United States manufacturing sector, contributing to significant job losses and business closures;

Whereas the undervaluation of China's currency also has had and continues to have a negative impact on the economies of its neighbor nations, the European Community, Mexico, and Latin America;

Whereas the free fluctuation of currencies is a key component to the health of global trade, and the stability of the world economy; and

Whereas China's central bank governor has stated that the value of the yuan will eventually be determined by market forces rather than pegged firmly to the dollar: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the United States—

(1) supports the Secretary of the Treasury's work with regard to the Secretary's discussions with the Government of the People's Republic of China leading to a market-based valuation of the yuan; and

(2) encourages the People's Republic of China to continue to act on its commitments to the trade rules and principles of the international community of which it is now a member.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 220—DESIGNATING THE NINTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR AS "NATIONAL FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY"

Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 220

Whereas fetal alcohol syndrome is the leading cause of mental retardation in western civilization, including the United States, and is 100 percent preventable;

Whereas fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are a major cause of numerous social disorders including learning disabilities, school failure, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime;

Whereas economists estimate that each individual with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders will cost United States taxpayers between \$1,500,000 and \$3,000,000 in his or her lifetime;

Whereas in February 1999, a small group of parents of children who suffer from fetal alcohol syndrome/effect (FAS/E) came together with the hope that in 1 magic moment the world could be made aware of the devastating consequences of alcohol consumption during pregnancy;

Whereas the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day was observed on September 9, 1999;

Whereas Bonnie Buxton of Toronto, Canada, the co-founder of the first International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day, stated the purpose of the observance as: "What if . . . a world full of FAS/E parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol . . . would the rest of the world listen?"; and

Whereas on the ninth day of the ninth month of each year since 1999, communities around the world have observed International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the ninth day of September of each year as "National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to—

(A) observe "National Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day" with appropriate ceremonies to—

(i) promote awareness of the effects of prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(ii) increase compassion for individuals affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol;

(iii) minimize further effects; and

(iv) ensure healthier communities across the United States; and

(B) observe a moment of reflection on the ninth hour of the ninth day of September to remember that during the 9 months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, at nine minutes after the hour of nine in communities across Alaska and around the world, people are pausing today to observe International Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Awareness Day. International FAS Awareness Day was first observed on September 9, 1999. It began with a small group of parents of children afflicted with FAS and Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) who came together on the Internet to ask this compelling question, "What if a world full of FAS and FAE parents all got together on the ninth hour of the ninth day of the ninth month of the year and asked the world to remember that during the nine months of pregnancy a woman should not consume alcohol?"

These pioneering activists, most of whom were adoptive and foster parents, led by Brian Philcox and Bonnie

Buxton of Toronto, Canada, did not have the resources of large public relations firms or well connected lobbyists. They organized the first International FAS Awareness Day on a shoestring using the Internet. Rapidly their group grew to include more than 70 volunteer coordinators in eight countries. Through this grassroots awareness effort, many women of childbearing age learned for the first time that no amount of alcohol in pregnancy is good.

Each year their simple message travels further. On this fifth International FAS Awareness Day, we know that the message is getting across. Numerous observances are planned in my home State of Alaska. In Nome, a birthday cake celebration will honor all babies who will be born in the region in the coming year. In Kenai the American Legion will sponsor a breakfast and the ringing of bells at 9:09 AM. The Mayors of Anchorage, Haines and Wasilla, to name a few, have issued local proclamations.

The Commissioner of our Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Joel Gilbertson, and the staff of his Division of Behavioral Health, are to be commended for their diligent efforts in bringing International FAS Awareness Day to Alaska. An excellent resource manual to help communities plan their observances, is accessible through the Internet page of the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services. I would also like to thank the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Services, which is publicizing International FAS Awareness Day on their website.

Yet, in spite of all of the hard work of dedicated volunteers over the last several years to publicize International FAS Awareness Day, I was surprised to learn that legislation has not been introduced in the Congress to ask that the President designate September 9 of each year as National FAS Awareness Day across the United States. The resolution that I am introducing today would do just that.

The resolution, like the day itself, is intended to focus attention on the high cost of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders to our Nation and the ease of prevention. At the same time it asks that the American people treat those afflicted with these disorders with compassion and support. FAS is the largest cause of mental retardation in Alaska, the United States and all of western civilization and it is one hundred percent preventable. The simple fact is that no amount of alcohol during pregnancy has been established as safe for the fetus. If women do not drink alcohol—any alcohol—during the nine months of pregnancy; alcohol-related birth defects will be eliminated.

It is high time that we recognize the efforts of the dedicated volunteers who conceived and developed International FAS Awareness Day with a national